



News Release

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

David A. Berns, Director

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MEDIA CONTACT

Public Information Office

(602) 542-4296

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Tucson Judge Receives Appreciation Award

The Honorable Suzanna S. Cuneo Recognized by

The Arizona Foster Care and Adoption Coalition

(Phoenix, November 1, 2005) The Honorable Suzanna S. Cuneo, Superior Court Commissioner, Pima County Juvenile Court, was recently recognized by the Arizona Foster Care and Adoption Coalition for her many years of dedicated work with adoptions in Pima County. She was nominated by Sue Schmelz, adoption specialist with the state Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth, and Families.

In nominating Judge Cuneo, Schmelz stated, "Judge Cuneo is an exceptional advocate for children and for adoption. In her role as Juvenile Court judge she works for the best interest of the child and to ensure that children do not languish in foster care."

"Judge Cuneo has participated for years in the November adoption month celebration in Pima County and has taken the lead in the court's participation," Schmelz continued. "In addition, she assures that the necessary paperwork is completed so that Orders of Adoption are issued in a timely manner."

Nominations were open to any individual in the state who continually "goes the extra mile" in assisting children achieve permanency in their home life. This was the fourth annual recognition event. Judge Cuneo received the award during the Children Need Homes Conference sponsored by the Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth, and Families. The theme of this year's conference was "Through the Eyes of a Child: A Place to Belong."

Ten awards were presented to Arizonans at the event. Other recipients included Linda Brown of Phoenix, case aide with the Department of Economic Security – Administration for Children Youth and Families; Linda Cunningham of Tucson, adoption subsidy supervisor with the Department of Economic Security – Division of Children, Youth, and Families; Rachel Ostro of Phoenix, case manager with Child Protective Services; Lynne Van Gould of Mesa, licensing worker with the ARISE Agency; Carol and Ross Grimand of Hereford, foster parents; Gay Rubey of Phoenix, adoption case manager with the state Department of Economic Security – Division of Developmental Disabilities; Danielle Delacio of Tucson, foster parent; Tim and Lynn McMurray of Mesa, foster and adoptive parents; and Julie Rosario of Tucson, supervisor with Catholic Social Services.